

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1968

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



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HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
1 Ledbury Road,
Hereford.

28th May 1969.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1968.

The birth-rate was 13.3 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 12.2 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 14.6 and 9.4 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 26.3 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

S. J. McKIRGAN, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerk/Typist—

Miss P. FAULKES

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	65,669
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	20,030
Structurally separate dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5,579
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	39
Rateable value, 31st March, 1968	...	...	...	...	...	£562,277
A Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£2,212
„ „ „ „ Housing (1919) Act	...	...	...	...	...	£2,279

Vital Statistics :—

Deaths	...	...	Total 245.	Male 126.	Female 119
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	...	12.2		
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	(Adjusted)	9.4	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	Total 257.	Male 133.	Female 124	
„ „ Illegitimate	...	„ 16.	„ 9.	„ 7	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (Crude)	...	13.3			
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	(Adjusted)	14.6		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	6.0			
Still Births	...	...	Total 5.	Male 2.	Female 3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	18.5		
Live and Still Births	...	Total 271.	Male 144.	Female 127	
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	26.3			
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	legitimate	28.0		
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	illegitimate	0		
Neo Natal „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	...	...	...	18.8	
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	18.8			
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	36.5			
Maternal Deaths...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	0			

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Professional Nursing in the Home

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. G. Rudd Thompson and Partners Ltd., Newport, Mon.

Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are available through the Herefordshire County Council Ambulance Service, whose services may be obtained through County Ambulance H.Q., Grafton, Hereford (telephone 4451). The service is available to all registered medical practitioners and in certain cases to registered midwives. Attendance at accidents and sudden street illnesses can be obtained by the public by following the instructions given on the dial of the telephone.

Stretcher ambulances and sitting case vehicles are available at any time and are manned by trained personnel.

The H.Q. Station is supplemented by Sub-stations distributed throughout the County.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	General Hospital

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situate in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft. whilst the middle of the district is low-lying.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation, the subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers made 1909 were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans made 1912 were amended during 1955; Food Bye-Laws were made in 1950; and Bye-Laws with respect to swimming baths and bathing pools during 1961, and Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 has been adopted.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	...	5
(b)	Number of cases ...	...	...	...	5
(c)	Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible :—Salmonella Typhimurium in all cases.				

Foods involved:-Not ascertainable, but in 3 cases patient employed on a farm where there was Salmonella infection.

During the year 1968, 21 samples of milk have been submitted for examination for the presence of Brucella Abortus, all with negative results. However, in the current year to date it has been necessary to secure the heat treatment of milk from two herds because of the presence of this organism. It is understood that the incidence of this disease is increasing, due to changing methods of animal husbandry, and that whilst vaccination is about 70 per cent effective, its main advantage is in preventing active abortion rather than preventing infection.

There seems little doubt that there is a general increase in the country of infection in cattle with Salmonellae—chiefly Salmonella Dublin and Salmonella Typhi Murium—and there have been a number of human cases in this area during the present and past year associated with infection on farms and it has been necessary to issue Heat Treatment Orders.

The desirability of legislation being introduced requiring all milk—whether intended for liquid consumption or for manufacture—to be efficiently heat treated cannot be stressed too strongly.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1968

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65- over
Scarlet Fever	M.	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poison- ing	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
	F.	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whoop- ing Cough	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	42	1	4	1	7	6	17	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	39	3	4	4	1	2	20	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysen- tery	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	M.	13	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	8	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1968

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—
2. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach ...	1	—
3. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	5	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast ...	—	4
5. Leukaemia	2	1
6. Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ...	15	9
7. Other Edocrine etc. Diseases	1	2
8. Anaemias	—	1
9. Mental Disorders	—	1
10. Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	2
11. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	—	2
12. Hypertensive Disease	—	3
13. Ischaemic Heart Disease	35	38
14. Other Forms of Heart Disease	13	11
15. Cerebrovascular Disease	9	15
16. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	4
17. Influenza... ..	2	4
18. Pneumonia	10	11
19. Bronchitis and Emphysema	12	4
20. Peptic Ulcer	1	—
21. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	4	—
22. Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	—	1
23. Congenital Anomalies	4	—
24. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	—
25. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	—
26. Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	2	1
27. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
28. All other Accidents	1	3
29. All other External Causes	1	—
...		
TOTAL	126	119

Tuberculosis

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number on register 31.12.67	22	11	6	11	28	22
New cases notified ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cases transferred to area...	—	1	—	—	—	1
	22	13	6	11	28	24
Cases removed	3	—	—	1	3	1
	19	13	6	10	25	23
Number on register 31.12.68	19	13	6	10	25	23

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspections made during the year:—							<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1220
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	328
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	285
Dairies & Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Food & Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	403
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	590
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

Housing

Attention has been directed to dealing with unfit houses and action with regard thereto has been as follows :—

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.

1. After informal action...	...	...	...	...	85
2. After formal notice under :					
(i) Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	0
(ii) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	0

(b) UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	...	18
(c) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	...	0

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under the relevant provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1964, were as follows :—

		<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Number of applications received ...		4	51
(a) Applications granted ...		3	51
(b) „ rejected ...		1	—
(c) „ pending ...		—	—

It is to be noted that with the increased assistance that can now be given in certain circumstances a greater number of applications for Standard Grant are being made.

No improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, have been prescribed by the Council but since the inception of this Act eight applications have been received from tenants for the improvement of houses outside such areas, and eight improvement notices have been served.

The number of new houses erected during the year are set out below :—

Houses built privately ...	...	...	...	...	146
Houses built by Council ...	...	...	...	...	8
				Total ...	<u>154</u>

Houses owned by the Council now number 726, and are situate in the following parishes : Birch, Much (50), Breinton (8), Burghill (20), Clehonger (127) Credenhill (38), Dewchurch, Little (54), Dewchurch, Much (44), Dormington (10), Eaton Bishop (30), Fownhope (40), Hampton Bishop (2), Haywood (6), Holme Lacy (18), Holmer (2), Lugwardine (22), Marden (33), Mordiford (48), Moreton-on-Lugg (44), Pipe and Lyde (8), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (6), Stretton Sugwas (36), Sutton (14), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10) and Withington (30).

The erection at Clehonger of 31 bungalows for old persons, together with Community Centre and Warden's Flat have been commenced.

Water Supplies

As from the 1st April, 1960, all publicly owned piped water supplies became vested in the Herefordshire Water Board and a mains supply has been afforded to houses in the parishes of Allensmore, Bartestree, Breinton, Burghill and Tillington, Lower Bullingham, Callow, Clehonger, Credenhill, Little and Much Dewchurch, Dewsall, Eaton Bishop, Fownhope, Grafton, Haywood, Holmer and Shelwick, Kenchester, Lugwardine, Marden, Mordiford, Pipe and Lyde, Preston Wynne, Stretton Sugwas, Sutton, Weston Beggard, Westhide and Withington.

Apart from a few smaller units of supply all other sources of supply are subjected to filtration and chlorination and 104 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 78 were reported upon as being satisfactory and 26 as unsatisfactory. There is no evidence to believe that any of the supplies are liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Where adverse bacteriological reports are received information is immediately transmitted to the Board Engineer so that he can take appropriate remedial action.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is as follows :—

(a) direct to the houses	...	...	...	...	2,042
(b) by means of standpipes	...	...	...	...	39

In addition to the above mentioned samples, six samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 208 for Bacteriological Examination from private sources with the following results:

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical	...	...	...	3	3
Bacteriological	...	...	...	122	86

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are 23 distributors on the register who retail Designated Milk.

In addition there are a number of distributors registered in other areas who retail milk in this administrative district, together with a further number of persons, who are also producers and who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows —

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	51
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	36
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	50

The above premises fulfil the requirements of Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Sixty premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows:—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	58
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year inspections of food premises have continued to ascertain that hygienic practices were being maintained. Three hundred and twenty inspections were carried out, of which sixty-six related to registered food premises.

Fifty-one samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	51
„ Grade II	...	...	—
„ Grade III	...	...	—
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or egg pasteurising plants.

There is one poultry processing establishment to which sixty-five visits were made during the year. 9,536 broilers, 8,236 chickens, 12 ducks, 32 geese and 674 turkeys were examined and 730 birds were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

In addition 24 lbs. of Polish sausages and 45 lbs. of Roasting Chickens were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

All unfit food was destroyed by incineration.

Nuisances

No Abatement Notices were served during 1968—all nuisances being satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-one cases of infectious diseases, consisting of 4 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 case of Dysentery, 5 cases of Food Poisoning and 21 cases of Infective Jaundice were investigated.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations discovered.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

No action necessary.

Registered Common Lodging Houses

None in the area.

Sewerage and Drainage

The Council has continued to give earnest consideration to the provision of sewerage schemes and on its instructions the Consulting Engineers carried out a survey of the whole area and submitted a report defining those areas where schemes would be practicable. These proposals have been agreed in principle and consideration is now being given to the order of precedence in which the various schemes should be placed.

The scheme for the village of Fownhope, where the residents should soon enjoy the benefit of a piped water supply has been commenced, and should be followed by the scheme for part of Withington and the major portions of the parishes of Lugwardine and Bartestree and that for part of Holmer. Attention is also being given to proposed schemes at Moreton-on-Lugg, Wellington, Hampton Bishop, part of Mordiford, Holme Lacy and Dinedor.

Consideration is also being given to the provision of a cesspit emptying service having regard to the fact that it will be impossible from economical and physical reasons to provide sewerage schemes for the whole of the Council's administrative area.

Sewerage schemes for Kings Acre Road and certain other properties in the parish of Breinton, a portion of Kenchester and major areas of the parishes of Stretton Sugwas and Credenhill together with those for parts of the parishes of Allensmore and Clehonger and one for the centre of Little Dewchurch village have been completed.

Factories

There are 57 factories within the district, 55 with and 2 without mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	24	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	2	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	28	—	—
TOTALS	54	—	—

2. Defects found :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects</i>			<i>Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	6	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	11	11	—	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

	Registered	Inspected	Employees
Offices	16	3	40
Retail Shops	26	3	40
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses			
Catering Establishments and Canteens	1	1	4
open to the Public	6	1	53
Fuel Storage Depots	1	—	4
	50	8	141

Total Inspections 42

Accidents Notified 0

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator, together with two operators are employed, but their services are shared jointly with the Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch R.D.'s. The table set out hereunder records work in this area during 1968 :—

	Non-Agric.	Agric.	Total
Number of Inspections	312	678	990
Number of Infestations including Re-In-			
festations	151	504	655
Number of Treatments	151	504	655

Contracts held in the four areas at the 31st December, 1968, amounted to £2,450.

Temporary and Moveable Dwellings

Following approval by the County Planning Authority licences in accordance with the Model Standards have been issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, as follows :—

Multiple sites :—

Issued for a limited period	... 1
Issued without time limit	... 6

Individual sites :—

Issued for a limited period	... 7
Issued without time limit	... 10

In addition, there are several moveable dwellings in respect of which licences are not required under the provisions of the First Schedule of the Act, but which are, nevertheless, subject to the provisions of the Council's Byelaws, and a number of caravans are known to be stored at various premises but are unoccupied.

Considerable trouble is experienced in dealing with the nomadic type of caravan dweller who persists in siting his caravan on the verges of public highways and bridle roads.

Refuse Collection.

Three freighters, with three loader-drivers and eight loaders are employed and collections are carried out once in every week throughout the area including, under agreement with the County Council, the cleansing of and removal of refuse from various lay-bys.

With these regular collections there is no excuse for the indiscriminate tipping of refuse in old quarries and on wasteland in the area but it must be stressed that it is not always local people who are responsible for this reprehensible practice.

During 1968, 1,434 loads of refuse were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal.

The Council has decided to inaugurate the paper sack method for the storage and collection of household refuse and it is anticipated this will be fully operative throughout the whole administrative area during 1969.

Scrap Metal Dealers.

Fifty-five persons are now registered under the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, as dealers in old metal, and close liaison in dealing with these persons is maintained with C.I.D. Officers of the West Mercia Constabulary.

Unfortunately many of these persons are nomadic in character and this creates additional difficulties in exercising the full control that is desirable.

Petroleum Acts.

The number of petroleum installations licensed by the Council is ninety-eight.

During the year supervisory work together with the appropriate air pressure tests on tanks and pipelines was carried out at several new installations and at certain existing installations which were enlarged.

Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

There are twenty-four premises consisting of 12 Flats, 2 Hospitals, 1 Hostel, 2 Schools, 5 Hotels, 1 Convent and 1 Home for Elderly Persons to which Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936, applies, and where the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire must be provided and maintained.

These premises are visited regularly and the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer with the consent of the Chief Fire Officer for the County, in this matter must be appreciated and acknowledged.

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
1 Ledbury Road, Hereford.

10th April, 1969

Tel. : 5457 Ex. 27.

